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No Direct CIA Aid To Symphony: Cabot

By WILLIAM SONZSKI ✓

Henry B. Cabot, president of the trustees of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, said Sunday that while the State Department has given direct financial assistance for overseas tours of the orchestra, the CIA has not.

A California publisher has alleged that the CIA secretly financed a visit to France by the orchestra in 1952.

"To my knowledge, the CIA

had nothing to do with it," Cabot told The Herald. "The cultural affairs office in the State Department has helped out on several trips, but we have never dealt with the CIA."

Cabot noted that other U.S. musical companies and dance groups have also toured Europe and the Soviet Union with aid from the State Department "as a regular policy." He said New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland orchestras were among them.

The chamber group of the Boston Symphony Orchestra is currently on a tour of England, West Germany and the Soviet Union.

A U.S. official in Washington said the Soviet portion of the trip is part of the official cultural exchange program instituted between the two countries in 1958.

Exchange programs are financed by the State Department's cultural affairs bureau with funds appropriated by Congress, the official said.